

PROCLAMATION

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH OCTOBER, 2013

WHEREAS, one in every four women will experience domestic violence during her lifetime; and

WHEREAS, approximately 15.5 million children are exposed to domestic violence every year; and

WHEREAS, fifty-eight Hoosier men, women, and children died due to domestic violence from July 2012 to June 2013; and

WHEREAS, when a family member is abused, it can have long-term damaging effects on the victim that also leave a mark on family, friends, and the community at large; and

WHEREAS, the problem of domestic violence is not confined to any group or groups of people, but crosses all economic, racial, gender, educational, religious, and societal barriers, and is sustained by societal indifference; and

WHEREAS, the crime of domestic violence violates an individual's privacy, dignity, security, and humanity due to the systematic use of physical, emotional, sexual, psychological, and economic control and/or abuse; and

WHEREAS, victims should have support to find the compassion, comfort, and healing they need, and domestic abusers should be punished to the full extent of the law; and

WHEREAS, victims of violence should have access to medical and legal services, counseling, transitional housing, and other supportive services so that they can escape the cycle of abuse; and

WHEREAS, it is important to recognize the compassion and dedication of the individuals who provide services to victims of domestic violence and work to increase public understanding of this significant problem; and

WHEREAS, Prevail, Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Domestic Violence Network, and other agencies nationwide are committed to increasing public awareness of domestic violence and its prevalence, and to eliminating it through prevention and education; and

WHEREAS, our Nation has a moral obligation to work to prevent domestic violence and to address its brutal and destructive effects and must make ending domestic violence a national priority,

NOW THEREFORE, in recognition of the important work done by domestic violence programs and victims' service providers, I, J. Andrew Cook, Mayor of Westfield, Indiana say NO MORE and do hereby proclaim the month of October 2013 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month and urge all citizens to actively participate with Prevail, Inc. to work towards the elimination of personal and institutional violence against all men, women, and children.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed, the great seal of the City of Westfield, Indiana, on this 14th day of October, 2013.

(City Seal)

J. Andrew Cook
Mayor
City of Westfield